



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 141

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1995

No. 22

Senate

(Legislative day of Monday, January 30, 1995)

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Richard C. Halverson, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.—II Corinthians 12:9.

Gracious Heavenly Father, often when we need Thee most, we find it hardest to come to Thee. Sometimes we do not come because we are impressed with our strength and do not feel any need. Sometimes we do not come because we have failed or sinned and refuse to admit our need. Either way, it is pride which deprives us of Thy favor. Forgive us, Lord, for finding it so difficult to understand the meaning of grace, that grace means the unmerited favor of God.

Help us see that the one condition grace requires is admission of need; that it is our weakness which qualifies us for Thy strength; that it is our lack of wisdom which qualifies us for Thy light and truth; that it is our failure and sin which qualify us for Thy love, forgiveness, and renewal.

Loving God, we have no secrets from Thee. Thou knowest us far better than we know ourselves. Help us to humble ourselves before Thee and find in Thy grace a very present help in time of trouble. Touch every person in the Senate with grace and love and healing. Forgive and restore wherever there is need—in heart and office and home.

We pray in the name of Him whose grace is always more than sufficient, however great our need. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.
Mr. LOTT. I thank the Chair.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, this morning the time for the two leaders is reserved, and there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business until the hour of 10 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the following Senators permitted to speak for the designated times: Senator BOND 10 minutes and Senator HUTCHISON 10 minutes. At 10 a.m., the Senate will resume consideration of House Joint Resolution 1, the constitutional balanced budget amendment.

I should advise Members we do expect that an amendment will be laid down this morning for debate only.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BOND addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. INHOFE). The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I thank the Chair.

THE FUTURE OF FEDERAL HOUSING POLICY AND HUD'S BUDGET CRISIS

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the future of Federal housing and community development policy and the financial and management crisis currently facing the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Last November, the American people declared their anger and frustration with inefficient, ineffective, and waste-

ful Government programs of the past and demanded change. This new Congress must deliver on that mandate, not with more promises and debates, but with specific action and workable solutions. I emphasize that this mandate has provided the House and Senate with a real opportunity to revitalize Federal housing policy; namely, to redirect Federal housing and community development policy from HUD micromanagement to a policy of consolidation based on State and local decisionmaking.

I look forward to working with my colleagues, including my new ranking member, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, our new chairman of the Banking Committee, Senator D'AMATO, Senator SARBANES, and the new chairman of the Housing Opportunities Subcommittee, Senator MACK, and my friends across the aisle, to find the appropriate reforms and meaningful approaches to address the many housing and community needs of this country.

Primarily, I seek to sound an alert to my colleagues to the budgetary crisis at HUD and use this opportunity as a call to action. HUD has been likened to a massive bureaucratic and budgetary *Titanic* drifting inexorably on the shoals of spending reductions and a balanced budget amendment. We can't stop it, and we can't turn it around on a dime. No doubt some of our colleagues would just as soon fiddle with the deck chairs, and others would simply scuttle the vessel.

Moreover, I share many of those concerns. Despite my reservations about the great difficulty of finding real and meaningful solutions to the budgetary and management crisis facing the Department of Housing and Urban Development, I accepted the responsibilities of chairman of the Senate VA-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee for the 104th Congress.

In order to reach a better understanding of the HUD budgetary crisis, I

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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